

National Transportation Safety Board
Washington, DC 20594

Brief of Accident

Adopted 08/26/2003

DEN03LA019 File No. 13763	11/30/2002	Montrose, CO	Aircraft Reg No. N5303Z	Time (Local): 07:30 MST		
Make/Model: Cameron Balloons / O-70				Fatal	Serious	Minor/None
Engine Make/Model:			Crew	0	0	1
Aircraft Damage: None			Pass	0	2	0
Number of Engines: Unk/Nr						
Operating Certificate(s): None						
Type of Flight Operation: Personal; Sightseeing						
Reg. Flight Conducted Under: Part 91: General Aviation						
Last Depart. Point: Same as Accident/Incident Location				Condition of Light: Day		
Destination: Local Flight				Weather Info Src: Weather Observation Facility		
Airport Proximity: Off Airport/Airstrip				Basic Weather: Visual Conditions		
				Lowest Ceiling: None		
				Visibility: 10.00 SM		
				Wind Dir/Speed: 150 / 006 Kts		
				Temperature (°C): -6		
				Precip/Obscuration: None / None		
Pilot-in-Command	Age: 56			Flight Time (Hours)		
Certificate(s)/Rating(s)				Total All Aircraft: Unk/Nr		
Commercial; Free Balloon				Last 90 Days: Unk/Nr		
Instrument Ratings				Total Make/Model: Unk/Nr		
None				Total Instrument Time: UnK/Nr		

The pilot said this was his second flight of the morning, and the wind was approximately 3 knots. He said that during the flight, the wind increased to approximately 10 knots. During a landing attempt in an open field, the pilot said the basket struck a fence, subsequently spilling the occupants onto the ground. The balloon flew for an additional 8 to 10 minutes before the balloon's basket caught on a second fence. The ground crew retrieved the balloon, which incurred no damage.

Brief of Accident (Continued)

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Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT ENCOUNTER WITH WEATHER
Phase of Operation: APPROACH

Findings

1. (C) WEATHER CONDITION - UNFAVORABLE WIND

Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH OBJECT
Phase of Operation: LANDING

Findings

2. (F) OBJECT - FENCE

Findings Legend: (C) = Cause, (F) = Factor

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident as follows.
the unforecasted increase in wind velocity. A contributing factor was the fence that the basket struck, subsequently spilling the occupants onto the ground.